domestically and globally. The package inter-alia provides for easier access to credit, availability of collateral free loans upto Rs. 25.00 lakhs, composite loans upto Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technology upgradation and improved infrastructure.

SSI facing international competition

5097 SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small Scale Industries are facing the international competition after the removal of quantitative restrictions under the World Trade Organisation arrangement from April, 2001;

(b) if so, whether it is fact that the Small Scale Industries are facing a tough competition with China, Singapore and other countries whose product of better quality are available at cheaper prices in the Indian market; and

(c) if so, steps being taken by Government keeping in view the above facts?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) Removal of Quantitative Restrictions have exposed the SSIs to greater competition with China, Singapore and other countries. However, the Small Scale Industries in India have shown resilience to withstand the impact of phasing out quantitative restrictions as is evident from their track record.

(c) Government is constantly monitoring the impact of the removal of Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) on the economy including the Small Scale Industries (SSIs) in the country. Even after the removal of QRs, protection to the industries is available in the form of raising custom duties upto the bound levels, imposing anti-dumping duties and taking safeguard measures in case of surge in imports. Government has also put in place several measures to strengthen the small scale industries to make them globally competitive. These include special focus on areas such as technology upgradation, infrastructure assistance through cluster approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modem management practices, use of electronic infrastructure and other IT applications to face the emerging challenges of trade liberalization.

SSIs in Assam

5098. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new Small Scale Industries/Units set up in Assam during the last five years till date;